Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A method of interfacing a messaging system to a database management system having a table for storing data and also having at least one database command to access the table, the messaging system having at least one messaging system command to access a message queue, comprising:

associating a virtual table with a message queue, the virtual table comprising a message-data column and at least one message-attribute column; and

accessing the message queue in accordance with at least one database command specifying the virtual table, the message queue having a message comprising message-data and at least one message-attribute data, wherein the message-data is associated with the message-data column and the at least one message-attribute data is associated with the at least one message-attribute column.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one message-attribute column comprises a correlation identifier column, and the at least one message-attribute data comprises a correlation identifier, wherein the correlation identifier column is associated with the correlation identifier.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 further comprising:

associating at least one access routine with the virtual table, the at least one access routine comprising at least one messaging system command of the messaging system;

wherein said accessing comprises invoking the at least one access routine to access the message queue using the at least one messaging system command, wherein the at least one database command does not specify the at least one access routine.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one database command is a SQL INSERT statement to insert the message-data into the message-data column and to insert the at least one message-attribute data into the at least one message-attribute column of the virtual table, wherein said accessing receives the message-data from the message-data column of the virtual table and the at least one message-attribute data from the at least one message-attribute column of the virtual table, and writes the message-data and the at least one message-attribute data to the message queue.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one database command is a SQL SELECT statement to read the message-data and the at least one message-attribute data from the message queue and return the message-data in the message-data column and the at least one message-attribute data in the at least one message-attribute column of the virtual table.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 5 wherein said read is a non-destructive read.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one message-attribute column comprises a topic column, and the at least one message-attribute data comprises a topic, wherein the topic column is associated with the topic.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The method of claim 5 wherein in response to the SQL SELECT statement comprising a constraint referencing the at least one message-attribute column, said accessing applies the constraint referencing the at least one message-attribute when reading the message-data from the message queue.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 further comprising:

binding the virtual table to a distribution list specifying a plurality of message queues;

wherein the at least one database command inserts the message-data into the message-data column of the virtual table,

wherein said accessing sends the message-data of the message-data column to the plurality of message queues of the distribution list.

Claim 10 (previously presented): An apparatus for interfacing a messaging system to a database management system having at least one database command to access a table, and the messaging system having at least one messaging system command to access a message queue, comprising:

a computer having a data storage device connected thereto, wherein the data storage device has a table for storing data; and

one or more computer programs, to be executed by the computer, for

associating a virtual table with a message queue, the virtual table comprising a message-data column and at least one message-attribute column; and

accessing a message queue in accordance with at least one database command specifying the virtual table, the message queue having a message comprising message-data and at least one message-attribute data, wherein the message-data is associated with the message-data column and the at least one message-attribute data is associated with the at least one message-attribute column.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 10 further comprising:

associating at least one access routine with the virtual table, the at least one access routine comprising the at least one messaging system command of the messaging system;

wherein said accessing comprises invoking the at least one access routine to access the message queue,

wherein the at least one database command does not specify the at least one access routine.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the at least one database command is a SQL SELECT statement to read the message-data and the at least one message-attribute data from the message queue and return the message-data in the message-data column and the at least one message-attribute data in the at least one message-attribute column of the virtual table.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 10 further comprising

binding the virtual table to a distribution list specifying a plurality of message queues;

wherein the at least one database command inserts the message-data into the message-data column of the virtual table,

wherein said accessing sends the message-data of the message-data column to the plurality of message queues of the distribution list.

Claim 14 (previously presented): An article of manufacture comprising a computer usable medium embodying computer usable program code for performing a method of interfacing a messaging system to a database management system having at least one database command to access a table, the messaging system having at least one messaging system command to access a message queue, the method comprising:

associating a virtual table with a message queue, the virtual table comprising a message-data column and at least one message-attribute column; and

accessing the message queue in accordance with at least one database command specifying the virtual table, the message queue having a message comprising message-data and at least one message-attribute data, wherein the message-data is associated with the message-data column and the at least one message-attribute data is associated with the at least one message-attribute column.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The article of manufacture of claim 14 wherein the at least one message-attribute column comprises a correlation identifier column that is associated with a correlation identifier of the at least one message-attribute data.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The article of manufacture of claim 14 further comprising:

associating at least one access routine with the virtual table, the at least one access routine comprising the at least one messaging system command of the messaging system;

wherein said accessing comprises invoking the at least one access routine to access the message-data of the message queue,

wherein the at least one database command does not specify the at least one access routine.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The article of manufacture of claim 16 wherein the at least one database command is a SQL SELECT statement to read the message-data and the at least one message-attribute data from the message queue and return the message-data in the message-data column and the at least one message-attribute data in the at least one message-attribute column of the virtual table.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The article of manufacture of claim 14 wherein the at least one message-attribute column comprises a topic column, and the at least one message-attribute data comprises a topic, wherein the topic column is associated with the topic.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The article of manufacture of claim 17 wherein in response to the SQL SELECT statement comprising a constraint referencing the at least one message-attribute column, said accessing applies the constraint referencing the at least one message-attribute column when reading the message-data from the message queue.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The article of manufacture of claim 14 further comprising:

binding the virtual table to a distribution list specifying a plurality of message queues;

wherein the at least one database command inserts the message-data into the message-data column of the virtual table,

wherein said accessing sends the message-data to the plurality of message queues of the distribution list.